

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 8, 2017

Baxter Academy for Technology and Science
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BAXTER ACADEMY's ROBOTICS TEAM RANKS FIRST IN NEW ENGLAND & POSTS TOP WORLD SCORE

Windham, New Hampshire: Baxter Academy for Technology and Science's robotics team, the Outliers, emerged from the Granite State district event on March 5 as the Number One team in New England. The Outliers won the event in alliance with the PVC Pirates from Londonderry, New Hampshire, and the Duxbury Dragons from Duxbury, Massachusetts. The Outliers' alliance posted the top score worldwide. Twice in the finals, the alliance scored 445 points, which was more than 100 points higher than any final match elsewhere in world competition.

Judges awarded the team the Excellence in Engineering Award. The Outliers also broke into the Top 10 worldwide in a global poll of FIRST mentors, players, and fans. The team placed Number 8.

The most challenging and rewarding goal in this year's FIRST SteamWorks Competition is to get 4 rotors spinning on a steampunk airship. Of the 1,828 matches played across the world in the opening weekend, alliances spun the 4 rotors only 20 times. The Outliers, playing in various alliances throughout the district event, achieved this high-scoring feat 9 times in only 19 matches, or 45% of the total times it was achieved across world competition. The Outliers final alliance spun 4 rotors in 6 of 8 playoff matches.

Baxter engineering teacher and team mentor, Jonathan Amory, noted that the team engineered a very fast, maneuverable robot that could manage retrieval operations flexibly. "Maintenance killed us last year," he said, "So we wanted to make the robot robust this year. The team spent a lot of time designing systems that had backups. They didn't rely on one sensor that could fail. They programmed backup plans into the systems and built in redundancies so that if one system failed it wasn't critical to the success of the robot."

The Outliers will be on the floor again on March 17 at the greater Boston event in Revere, Massachusetts. They will also compete at Maine's Pine Tree district event March 30 through April 1 in Lewiston. The team's primary sponsor is Automation Integrator. Other sponsors include Aries Wealth Management, Robotics Institute of Maine, Portland Pie, Solidworks, Macpage, Southworth, SolidWorks, Project Login, Live and Work in Maine, and ON Semiconductors.

Baxter Academy is a public charter school with students who attend school in Portland daily, commuting from 60 Maine towns. The Outliers live in many Maine towns (see the list below for local angles).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jonathan Amory, team mentor: 838-1614; jon.amory@baxter-academy.org
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THE OUTLIERS
FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM 5687
BAXTER ACADEMY FOR TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE
Portland, Maine

Alec Gagne (2017), Westbrook
Project Manager

Jacob Willette (2018), Auburn
Management-Task Manager

Sam Kemp (2017), South Portland
Mechanical Lead, CAD, Drive Team (Human Player)

Julian Bernard (2018), Portland
Strategy, Media/Design, Electronics, Drive Team (Coach)

Jacob Morneault (2018), Lewiston
Pneumatics, 3D Printing, Drive Team (Driver)

Jacob Morrison (2018), Freeport
CAD, Drive Team (Pilot)

Ian Farm (2019), South Portland
Lead Programmer

Cutter Meeker (2018), Naples
Scouting Captain, Strategy

Maxine Ewing (2019), Falmouth
Mechanical, Drive Team (Operator)

Caleb Marston (2018), South Portland
Programming, Scouting

Jean Claude Zarate (2018), South Portland
Programming, Scouting

Emma Harrington (2019), Falmouth
Mechanical, Head Welder

Jacob Lorenzo (2019), Falmouth
Mechanical, Lead 3D Printing

Harmoni Larrabee (2019), Lewiston
Mechanical, CAD

Owen Blake (2019), Gray
Electronics

Richard Mann (2018), Bowdoinham
Mechanical- Fabrication

Lydia Elliott (2019), Scarborough
Lead Electrician

Connor DuPuy (2019), Scarborough
Mechanical- Fabrication

Andrew Bryant (2019) Hollis
Mechanical- Fabrication

Connor Smith (2020), Casco
CAD, Electronics

Quinten Sagov (2020) Kennebunk
Publicity, Media

Elaina Merriam (2020), Naples
Mechanical, Publicity

Olivia Scola (2019), Portland
Pit Lord

Joslyn Schwieterman (2019), Portland
Pit

Taylor Bentley (2017), Auburn
Fundraising [Head]

Arianna Wylie (2017), Limerick
Fundraising